

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for time synchronization of units (2) in a system (1) which has a timebase unit (1) which is connected via a deterministic communications network (3) to the ~~units (2)~~, units, with the timebase unit (1) transmitting protocol packets (P) via the deterministic communications network (3) to the units (2) at a defined time ~~interval (t)~~, interval, which units (2) receive the protocol packets (2) and use the time interval (t) between the received protocol packets (P) for at least approximately identical clocking of the units (2).

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protocol packets are transmitted at a time interval which varies by 4 ~~µs~~ one microsecond at most.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protocol packets are transmitted at a time interval of 10^{-x} seconds, where x is a natural number ~~including 0~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ x = 0.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein protocols are transmitted with a length of less than 10-x seconds.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the timebase establishes the defined time interval on the basis of GPS Global Positioning System time.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protocol packets contain information about local time.

8. (Currently Amended) A system (A) having a number of units (2) and a time-synchronization apparatus, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time-synchronization apparatus has a timebase unit (1), ~~in that~~ and wherein each of the units (2) is connected to the timebase unit (1) via a deterministic communications network (3), ~~in that~~ wherein the timebase unit (1) ~~has~~ includes means for transmitting protocol packets (P) via the communications network (3) at a constant time interval (t), and ~~in that~~ wherein each unit (2) ~~has~~ includes means for receiving these protocol packets (P) and means for at least approximately identical clocking of each unit (2) based on the constant time interval (t).

9. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ the timebase has a GPS receiver.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the communications network is a fieldbus system, a DOL network or a wire-free network.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said system is a switchgear assembly or an automation system in the high- or medium-voltage range.